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Charles W. Stewart  
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Date: August 5, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of )  
HENDRIK A. DIRKSE, HUBERTUS W. A. DRIES, )  
and LOUIS E. STEIN )  
Serial No. 09/831,038 ) Group Art Unit: 1725  
Filed May 3, 2001 ) Examiner: Maria Alexandra Elve  
SEPARATOR APPARATUS )  
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)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This paper is in response to the final office action mailed June 24, 2004.

**REMARKS**

In the Examiner's response to the Applicants' last amendment, it is suggested that Applicants' traversal of the Examiner's rejection is based on the distinction between Applicants' claimed invention and the Baillie disclosures as merely residing in the difference between a sieve and a filter. Applicant, however, respectfully asserts that the Examiner's characterization of the Applicant's arguments is incorrect.

The distinctions noted in Applicants' last response are not based merely on the differences between a sieve and a filter. Rather, the differences between the Applicants' claimed invention and the Baillie disclosures relate to differences in the structural elements and in their use and function. For example, the diffusion plate 41 pointed to by the Examiner is